

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
11 August 2005 (11.08.2005)

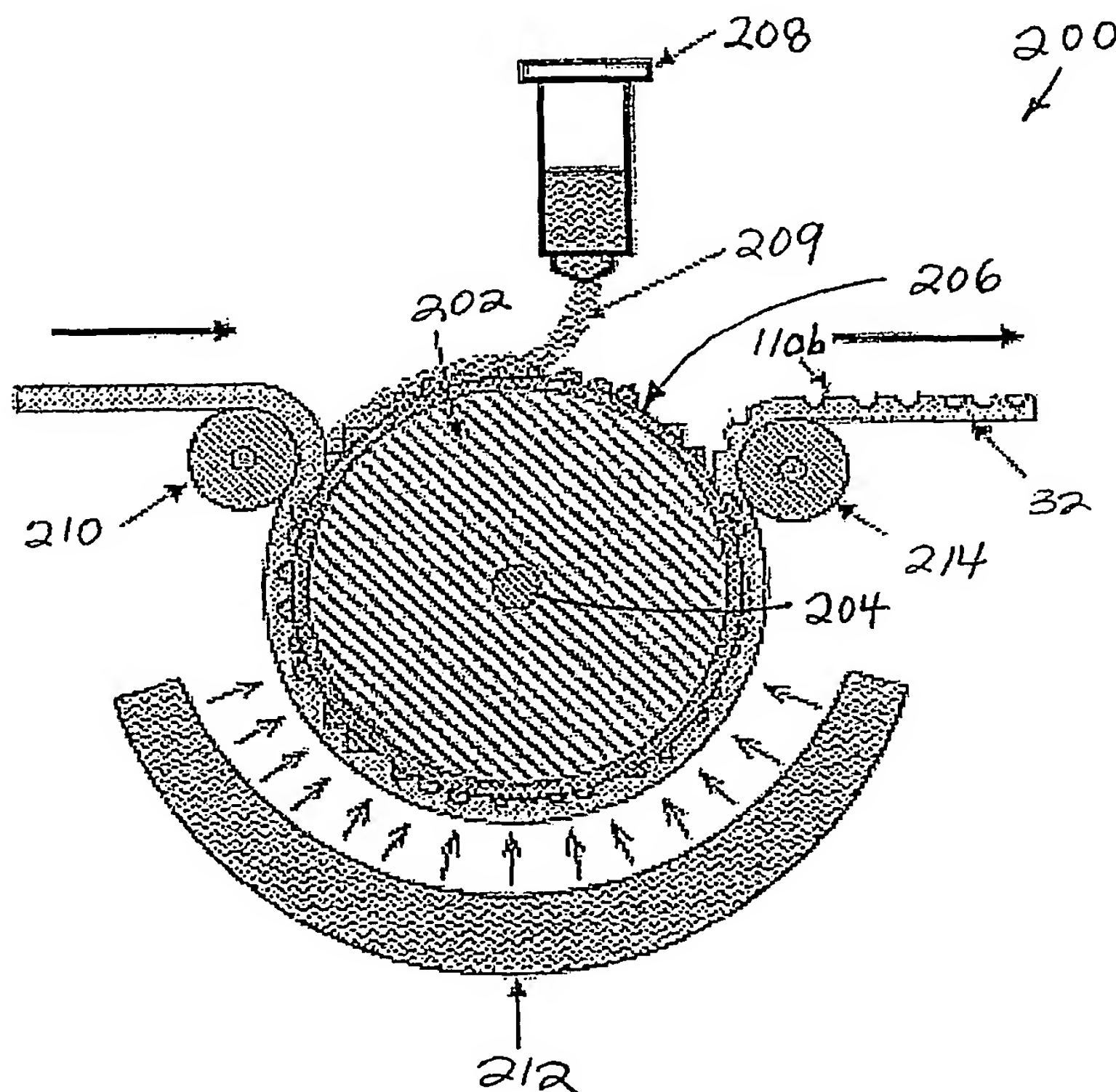
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/072936 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B29C 51/22**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US2005/001856**
- (22) International Filing Date: 21 January 2005 (21.01.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/537,847 21 January 2004 (21.01.2004) US
60/538,120 21 January 2004 (21.01.2004) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,

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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING PRE-FORMATTED LINEAR OPTICAL DATA STORAGE MEDIUM



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for manufacturing pre-formatted linear optical data storage media including an elongated linear polymer layer. The apparatus includes a drum mounted for rotation about a rotation axis, and the drum includes a circumferential outer surface having a predetermined pattern of protrusions for embossing at least one pattern of optically readable embossments in the elongated linear polymer layer as the layer is rolled on the drum. The apparatus also includes a thermal radiation source positioned adjacent the drum for heating the embossments of the elongated linear polymer layer prior to the layer being removed from the protrusions of the outer surface of the drum.

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SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*